

## EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



### LECTURES ON SOCIOLOGY IN THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ STUDY COURSE

MR. ELY gave two very delightful lectures, in which he sketched some of the leading features of modern society. He indicated the revolution caused by the change from hand-work to machines and factory work, showed the causes of unrest among wage-earners, talked of the vast problems, all new, caused by the rise of huge cities, and outlined in a very interesting way the main features of the different schools of thought on the social structure,—socialism, philosophical anarchism, single tax, the moderates or opportunists, those who believe better forms must slowly evolve by education, to which division he himself would seem to belong. He also spoke of the trades-union movement and of the attempts to bring about arbitration and conciliation; spoke of modern scientific attempts to relieve poverty, and strongly urged upon all who would study these subjects in the spirit of science, "first of all to learn facts."

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

THE Bulletin issued in December last by Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, chairman of the Press Committee of the International Council of Women, gives a most interesting resumé of the different National Councils and the work they are doing. To mention briefly some of the most striking items:

The Canadian Council of Women has been instrumental in introducing manual training and domestic science into the public schools of Ontario; in appointing women factory inspectors in Quebec and Ontario, and women school trustees in New Brunswick; also in amending laws so that they may be placed on school boards in British Columbia; it has also done much good work in improving the condition of women prisoners, in establishing hospitals, branches of the Red Cross Society, and boards of associated charities. The Victorian Order of Nurses was founded through the efforts of the National Council, and much educational work is being done as to industrial conditions.

In Germany the civic code adopted two years ago permits married women to hold property and control their wages. However, the husband still has sole power as to the custody and education of children. The "woman question" is making great strides in Germany. There are a million women more than men, and many of these must earn their bread. There are now industrial schools for women in the large towns, supported either wholly or in part by the municipality. The first colleges for women, founded in 1893, excited much opposition; now there are a number of successful ones. Two universities, Heidelberg and Freiburg, admit women on equal terms with men. Other universities regard them as "second-class" students, not entitled to a degree; they may, however, pass the state examinations in medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, but not in law.

In Norway the women have obtained municipal suffrage.

In Denmark a bill was passed in 1901 raising the age of children working in factories from ten to twelve years, and restricting the hours to six for those under fourteen, to ten for those under eighteen. Women are eligible as factory inspectors. Women working in the factories may receive financial assistance

for four weeks after confinement without coming under the Poor Law. (This is the bill of which Mrs. Norrie wrote us last year, and the best features of it were the result of the women's efforts.)

In Holland woman suffrage is being ably advocated by many prominent men and women, and laws have been passed enlarging the sphere of public usefulness for women.

The work of Englishwomen is so extensive that it is impossible even to enumerate their efforts. Mrs. Harper says, "Aside from the International Council of Women itself, there is no such organized body of women in the world as the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland."

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#### DEATH OF A GREAT WOMAN

In the death of Mrs. Osborn, which occurred on February 7, New York loses one of its ablest women workers in philanthropy. Mrs. Osborn, with her husband, organized the Training-School for Nurses connected with Bellevue Hospital—the first of its kind in America—and was one of its largest supporters until the day of her death. The Children's Aid Society, the Hospital for the Ruptured and Crippled, the Half Orphan Asylum, and the city missions were not only largely supported, but carefully directed, by Mrs. Osborn, either personally or through her sons. She was also influential in establishing the Wilson Industrial School, the School of Design for Women, the Society of Decorative Art, the Hahnemann Hospital, and the Woman's Board of Missions of the Reformed Church. Mrs. Osborn was a woman of rare judgment, clearness of vision, and wonderful executive ability, and she used her great wealth and her social influence for the uplifting of the moral and intellectual life of the community.

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#### CHILD LABOR IN ILLINOIS AND IOWA

WE take the following items from *Charities*:

"According to the annual report of the State Factory Commission, the employment of child labor in Illinois has increased thirty-nine per cent. in the last year. In 1900 the inspectors found fourteen thousand two hundred and fifty-six children at work in the factories, and in 1901 the number had grown to nineteen thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, an increase of five thousand five hundred and eighty-three. During that time the increase in manufactures was only nine per cent. The last report of the Iowa Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that a large number of children, some as young as ten years of age, are being employed in the factories. The law now prohibits the employment of children under a certain age in coal-mines, but takes no account of child labor in factories. These are some of the abuses which nurses in district work so soon realize as being at the bottom of much avoidable sickness and misery. Mrs. Florence Kelley, who has been heard at different nurses' clubs on the Consumers' League, was formerly factory inspector in Illinois, and did her work so thoroughly that she was put out of the position through the influence of manufacturers who wished to break the law in employing young children. Since her time things have gone from bad to worse in Illinois in the inhuman disregard of the health and freedom of childhood."

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DR. LAWSON C. HUGHES, of 397 Boylston Street, Boston, would like to communicate with someone having a full set of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* that they wish to dispose of.